REMARKS

Initially Applicants would like to thank Examiner Wang for granting an interview and for his time spent in the interview.

Claims 2, 4-8 and 16-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 2, 4-8, 16-17 and 19 are rejected as unpatentable over TSUDA et al. 5,936,688 in view of NAKAI 6,219,119. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 is amended to emphasize that the closed geometric shapes are such that each depressed area is isolated from others of the depressed areas.

As set forth at the interview, figures 7 and 8 of the present application show depressed areas 52 and protrusions 51 such that the protrusions are interconnected with each other and form depressions therebetween that have a closed geometric shape that is isolated from the other closed geometric shapes.

TSUDA et al. in Figure 9J, for example, teach protrusions 72c that are separated from each other, not interconnected. In addition, the depressed areas 72b are connected to each other such that they do not form a closed geometric shape. Therefore, TSUDA et al. do not teach or suggest that the depressed areas having a closed geometric shape and are isolated from others of the depressed areas as recited in claim 17.

As set forth at the interview, NAKAI is similar to TSUDA et al. and does not teach a closed geometric shape. The closed geometric shape indicated in Figures 4 and 7 of NAKAI are the protrusions 1.

Figure 4 of NAKAI is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment where the protrusions are spaced apart from the resin 5. In cross-section the protrusions 1 have a trapezoidal shape. NAKAI does not teach or suggest that the <u>depressed areas</u> have a closed geometric shape.

Figure 7 of NAKAI is a top view showing the top of protrusions 1. This view shows that the protrusions have a substantially rectangular shape. There is no teach or suggestion in NAKAI that the depressed areas have a closed geometric shape.

Accordingly, both TSUDA et al. and NAKAI are similar to prior art Figure 1 of the present invention, which as described on page 3, lines 6-8, "As shown in Fig. 1, all the protrusions 102 are circular in plan shape and arranged to be isolated from each other."

Claims 2, 4-8 and 16 depend from claim 17 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In addition claim 2 provides that a specific distribution of the inclination angle values of the surface has an average value within a range of 2° to 6°.

The positions set forth in the Official Action is that Figures 2A through 2E of TSUDA et al. teach the above-noted feature. However, as pointed out at the interview, each of the embodiments of Figures 2A through 2E corresponds to a specific example shown in the other figures. For example, Figure 2A corresponds to Figures 1A through 1M and Figure 2E corresponds to Figures 9A through 9L.

As set forth at the interview, only Figures 9A through 9L show depressions 72b between protrusions 72c. Accordingly, only Figures 9A through 9L would be relevant to the claim analysis. Thus, Figure 2E which corresponds to Figures 9A through 9L is the only teaching relevant to the recited claims. However, as seen in Figure 2E of TSUDA et al., the inclination distribution is fairly even between 0 and 24° such that an average would be about 10°. Such average is outside the recited range from 2° to 6°.

NAKAI does not teach or suggest a specific distribution of an inclination values of the surface has a average value within a range from 2° to 6°.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination and thus is not obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 19 includes a layer of organic resin having a plurality of spaced apart depressed areas lacking the organic resin. Each of the depressed areas has a closed geometric shape.

As pointed out at the interview, NAKAI does not teach a plurality of spaced apart areas lacking organic resin wherein each of the depressed areas has a closed geometric shape. Specifically, the valleys 4 between each of the hills 3 in each of the embodiments of NAKAI include resin as part of surface 5 and the valleys (depressed areas) are interconnected. Therefore, NAKAI does not teach spaced apart depressed areas lacking organic resin and thus could not teach depressed areas having a closed geometric shape.

The position set forth in the Official Action is that TSUDA et al. does not teach connected protrusions where each depressed area has a closed geometric shape. Accordingly, TSUDA et al. does not teach each of depressed areas having a closed geometric shape as recited in claim 19.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus is not obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants note that at the interview, the Examiner indicated that the limitations of claim 19 were not fully considered and that the focus of the rejection was mainly on claim 17. Although there is some similarities between claims 17 and 19, these claims each include limitations not disclosed by the other and should be independently analyzed.
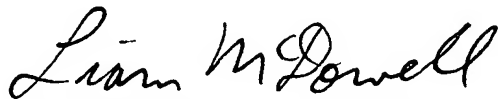
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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